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Washington Whispers

Intelligence officials say Carter, in an effort to boost CIA morale, is likely to stick within the agency for a successor to Adm. Stansfield Turner if the present director leaves. Reported on the inside track: Frank Carlucci, the current No.2 man.

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Asian intelligence sources report that sizable quantities of Soviet-supplied chemical-warfare material, including poison gas, have been put in place along Vietnam's tense border with China for use in case of another war. Refugees from Laos, in fact, say the Vietnamese already have used poison gas against tribal insurgents there.

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The White House is getting this word from top CIA officials about leaks of agency secrets: Look to the State Department, not just the CIA itself or Congress, for the source.